

LET MEET FACE TO FACE IN 2021 – MESSAGE TO THE NETWORK!



We believe that 2021 will bring us the fulfilment of dreams and plans that are important for us, for our organisations and the rural areas of our countries.

During these unpredictable times, we wish for strong partnership building between our members and all stakeholders who take part in building resilient, innovative and sustainable rural areas in Europe and beyond.

We, the board of PREPARE, wish you the following:



Lai Jaunais gads nes
skaistus mirkļus un
lieliskas satikšanās!



Zdrowia, radości i
wszystkiego
najlepszego w 2021
roku!



Hyvää ja antoisaa
vuotta 2021 kaikille!



Gëzuar Festat e
Fundvitit! Urimet më
të mira për 2021!



Vse najboljše v letu 2021!



Gëzuar festat! Të gjitha të
mirat në vitin 2021!



Puno sreće, zdravlja i
uspjeha u novoj godini!

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LETS MEET IN PREPARE CAP- CAFÉ!



PREPARE aisbl is happy to invite its members to a proposed new format of networking and capacity building in 2021 as we plan to organise a series of webinars hosted by our members on topics suggested by our members.

The idea behind **CAP-café**s 2021 - **Capacities** and **Partnership** come together – is to build capacities of PREPARE network, learn from each other and meet in relaxed webinars around topics of your choice. These webinars would be peer-to-peer without external expertise, between PREPARE members. Members will build the content, PREPARE will provide the platform and reporting.

We would like to hear from you on topics you would like to cover through CAP-café in 2021. We invite you to suggest themes of these webinars [through Google form by January 15, 2021](#). Both "umbrella" themes and topics of local interest are welcome, and they can range from an academic format to a more relaxed get-together event to share some good cases, stories or experiences you have.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScU07oK4z3BfMOKyPrMX_5XsyvVozRMIT-uHxekdxwv_M_flw/viewform

Once we receive your topics suggestions, we hope to be able to suggest new partnerships between our members in order to jointly organise a webinar on a similar topic(s). If this will not be possible, the rotation principle will be followed.

Looking forward to hear from you what topics you'd like to cover and organise!

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IN 2021 EUROPEAN RURAL PARLIAMENT COMES TO THE CENTRAL/EASTERN EUROPE FOR THE FIRST TIME

The European Rural Parliament (ERP) is a network and partnership that wouldn't be there without your national rural parliaments, events, all the actions you do at home to raise awareness about rural concerns and possibilities. PREPARE members have shown great commitment in the ERP process.



2021 will not change that. For the first time ERP comes to Central/Eastern Europe, to Kielce in Poland, probably in late September. The host is the Association Swietokrzyskie Rural Area Development supported by the National Rural Network and by the Polish Rural Forum. PREPARE (and ELARD) are involved in the Gathering process via the ERP steering group. Also a Rural Youth Parliament will be organised. As in the previous editions of ERP, PREPARE and its members can suggest to host workshops, present ideas, case studies, local stories, as well as come up with statements or policy suggestions. We would greatly appreciate your inputs!

If successful (we will know in January 2021), a project from the Europe for Citizens programme will give PREPARE an even stronger role in the ERP process, and some activities can be implemented this time also outside EU-countries. PREPARE has suggested to work on the topic of poverty and solidarity in the rural Balkans. In the same project, funding would be available for the preparation and implementation of the 3rd European Rural Youth Parliament, an event where PREPARE members have had strong presence.

3rd MEETING OF STRUCTURED DIALOGUE WITH EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS PARTNERS GROUP OF EXPERTS

On the 8th of December PREPARE President participated in partners group of experts.



Commissioner Elisa FERREIRA made an opening statement for participants and afterwards there was an introduction to exchange of views and discussion on topical issues presented by Anna Wagner. The agenda also included a short update by the Commission on the state of play of programming the funds for the 2021-2027 period presented by K. Uustal, ESI-Funds, and current developments of the Open Data Platform presented by J. Walsh

You can find presentations here:
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/communication/structured-dialogue-with-partners/#1

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CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LEADER NETWORK OF MOLDOVA

PREPARE President held a capacity building webinar regarding LEADER EU level legislation and practical tools for implementation



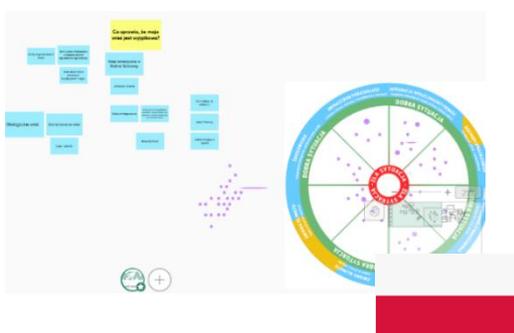
Mr. Ādler during the capacity building seminar answered on the following questions:

- Status of LEADER in Latvia - is it a government policy or it is a EU program?
- What is the vision of LEADER in Latvia in the coming 5-10 years
- How is the LEADER approach reflected in the government policies in Latvia (development of agriculture, development of tourism, other policies)
- What is the role of the Latvian Rural Forum in the overall system of LEADER in Latvia?
- Which government institution is in charge of LAG financing? And others.

The seminar was organised by the Latvian NGO "Risinajumu darbnīca" under a project financed by the EU.

POLISH RURAL FORUM: STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF RURAL NGOS

On 14 December 2020 the Polish Rural Forum organised a conference for rural NGOs called "Polish Rural Forum (FAOW): We strengthen the voice of rural NGOs", funded by the national programme for civic society development.



The event was attended by over 80 rural NGOs, of which many were LEADER LAGs. Presentations included information about rural development policy and funding in the next programming period, the strategy of the Polish Rural Forum in the next years, the situation of Polish rural areas in 2020 and their perspectives for the future, and smart villages. Discussion in working groups focused on developing a vision for rural areas by 2040 and key messages for the European Rural Parliament in 2021, smart villages, short food value chains and preparing for climate change. A full report of the event will be shortly available on the Polish Rural Forum's website.

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PREPARE NETWORK IS PROMOTING NEW ACTIVISTS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



We continue the PREPARE Aisbl initiative - Presenting young rural development enthusiasts. In this edition, meet **Vladan Babić** from Montenegro

Vladan Babić, 32 years old, is the owner of a small business from Nikšić, Montenegro. He considers himself as a youth activist, member of rural development network in Montenegro and he is director of NGO Drumovanje as well.

He works a lot with projects related to the rural development on education of people in rural area of Banjani, Trubjela, on how they can apply for local and national measures. He has also worked with several projects on the promotion of the rural area in Nikšić, including the organisation of an event called Day of Dogberries .

Vladan is a specialist in tourism, on which he completed specialist studies. He also successfully completed education on public advocacy and lobbying, and on providing advisory support to rural households.

He is member of the Montenegro Rural Development Network and is constantly trying to maintain a connection with the rural area, trying to inspire people and bring closer the benefits offered by rural tourism, gastro-tourism, eco-tourism etc.

He recently visited rural households and encouraged them to register their farms, in order to start developing their business and livelihood. In this aspect, he provides advisory support and give examples of good practice from the region.

He has support from the family and they all agree on one thing: Healthy village healthy people! His wife provides psychological support to people from rural areas and the parents contribute to better trust of households towards state projects.

He absolutely sees his future in this sector and in the rural areas. His profession is closely connected with the development of rural areas, since he strongly believes that his country has a huge potential in rural areas, and that there will always be room for work, effort and benefits provided by rural areas.

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The newsletter was prepared by the board and members of PREPARE AISBL